



# The Public Agenda and Taylor County

*A presentation to the Taylor County  
Chamber of Commerce,*

*April, 2006*

*Tom Layzell, President*

# Setting the Stage

*“Kentucky’s reality is that we will sink or swim not on how well we educate our youth, but on how well we educate our entire population, whether age 15, 25, 55 or 75.”*

*Ron Crouch, Director, Kentucky State Data Center*

# The Knowledge Economy and Education

- **Sixty percent of jobs today require some postsecondary education**
- **In the Knowledge Economy, education, technology, and learning are the keys to sustainable economic growth**
- **Postsecondary education provides the foundation for the Knowledge Economy**
- **To remain competitive, states must work to develop policies that incorporate human, intellectual and financial capital.**

# US High School Graduation Rate Is Below Average Among Developed Countries, 2004

| <u>Rank</u> | <u>OECD Member Country</u> | <u>Graduation Rate</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1           | Denmark                    | 100                    |
| 2           | Norway                     | 97                     |
| 3           | Germany                    | 93                     |
| 4           | Japan                      | 92                     |
| 5           | Poland                     | 90                     |
| 5           | Switzerland                | 90                     |
| 7           | Finland                    | 85                     |
| 7           | Greece                     | 85                     |
| 9           | France                     | 82                     |
| 9           | Hungary                    | 82                     |
| 9           | Italy                      | 82                     |
| 12          | Czech Republic             | 81                     |
| 13          | Belgium                    | 79                     |
| 13          | Iceland                    | 79                     |
| 15          | Ireland                    | 77                     |
| <b>16</b>   | <b>United States</b>       | <b>73</b>              |
| 17          | Sweden                     | 72                     |
| 18          | Luxembourg                 | 68                     |
| 18          | Spain                      | 68                     |
| 20          | Slovak Republic            | 61                     |

Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Education at a Glance 2004.

# US College Graduation Rate Is Below Average Among Developed Countries, 2004

| <u>Rank</u> | <u>OECD Member Country</u> | <u>Graduation Rate</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1           | Japan                      | 94                     |
| 2           | Turkey                     | 88                     |
| 3           | Ireland                    | 85                     |
| 4           | United Kingdom             | 83                     |
| 5           | Korea                      | 79                     |
| 6           | Spain                      | 77                     |
| 7           | Finland                    | 75                     |
| 8           | Iceland                    | 73                     |
| 9           | Germany                    | 70                     |
| 10          | Mexico                     | 69                     |
| 10          | Australia                  | 69                     |
| 10          | Denmark                    | 69                     |
| 10          | Netherlands                | 69                     |
| <b>14</b>   | <b>United States</b>       | <b>66</b>              |
| 15          | Czech Republic             | 61                     |
| 16          | Belgium                    | 60                     |
| 17          | Austria                    | 59                     |
| 17          | France                     | 59                     |
| 19          | Sweden                     | 48                     |
| 20          | Italy                      | 42                     |

Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development,  
Education at a Glance 2004.

# The Public Agenda

# The Mandates for Change in Kentucky

- **Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997**  
Establishes a long-term goal of raising the standard of living and quality of life in the Commonwealth above the national average by the year 2020
- **Kentucky Adult Education Act of 2000** Acknowledges adult literacy as a fundamental barrier to every major challenge facing Kentucky and calls for a multi-faceted strategy to address the low level of education of Kentucky's adult population



# Creating the 2005-2010 Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education

## The Process

- Analyses of key data
- Forums and meetings
- Public review and comment

## What We Learned

More emphasis needed on:

- Addressing needs of Adult Learners
- Affordability
- Degree production
- Role of institutions as community leaders
- Economic development
- Closing achievement gaps

# The Five Questions that Guide our Work

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?
2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?
3. Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?
4. Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?
5. Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?



# 2020 Projections to Meet Goals

To reach the national average in educational attainment, we must roughly **double** the number of working age Kentuckians with a bachelor's degree or higher, from **400,000 to 791,000**.






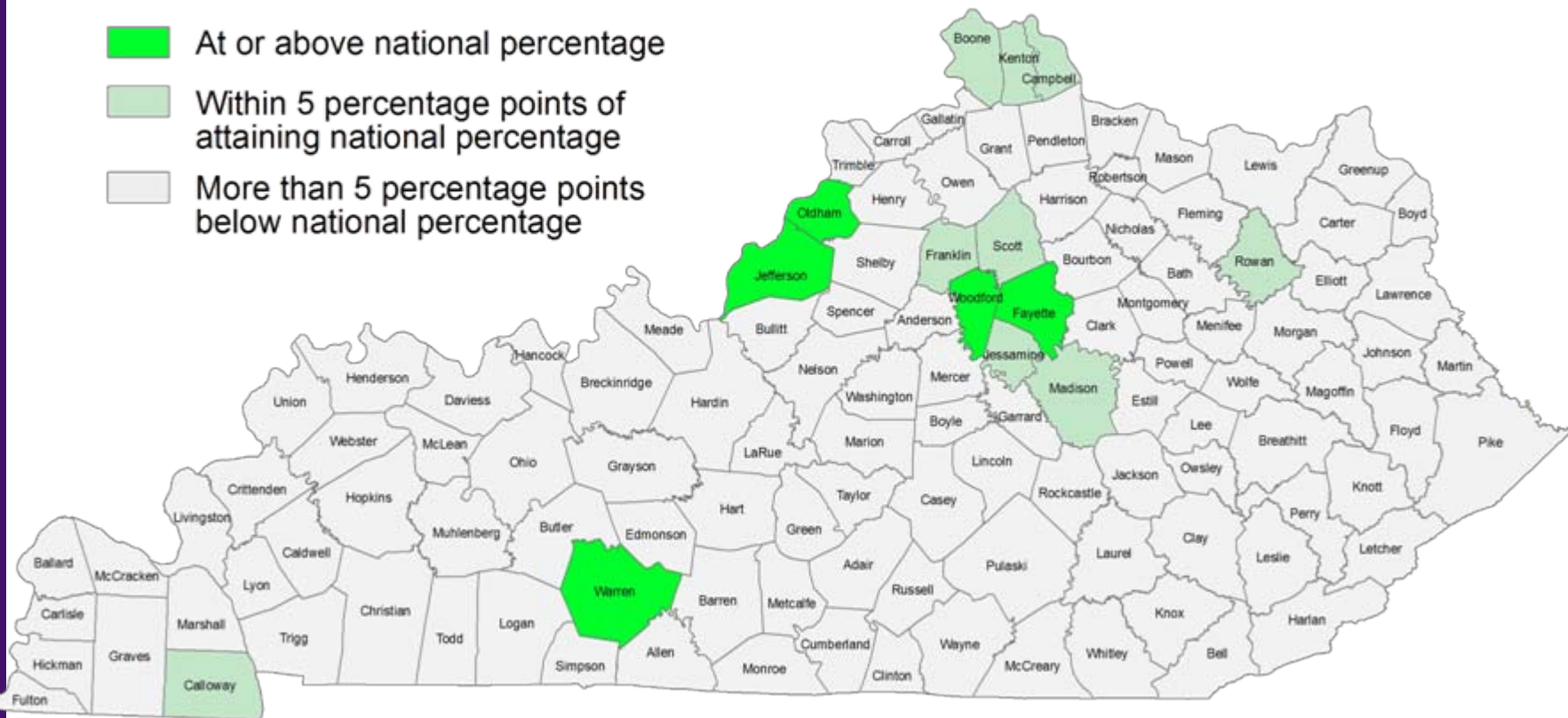
# Meeting the 2020 Projections Requires

- Increasing enrollment and degree production at colleges and universities
- Increasing adult education and GED college-going rate
- Using KCTCS capacity and increasing transfers
- Increasing high school graduation rates
- Increasing in-migration of degree holders through labor market changes

# Baccalaureate Attainment by County, 2000

**Percent of population 25 and older with a baccalaureate or higher degree**

-  At or above national percentage
-  Within 5 percentage points of attaining national percentage
-  More than 5 percentage points below national percentage



Sources: Kentucky Data Center, US Census, CPE Staff

**If we reach the national average in the level of educational attainment by 2020, Kentucky could see a cumulative increase of...**

**\$5.3 Billion**  
in state revenue

**\$71 Billion**  
in personal income



Note. Cumulative increase represents a gross revenue increase.

Source: Kentucky Long-term Policy Research Center



# And, we can expect:

- More high-value jobs
- Involved citizens
- More research & economic development
- Less poverty
- Healthier citizens



# Are We Making Progress?



# Success since Reform

- Kentucky's college-going rate of 62% now exceeds the national rate of 57%
- Postsecondary enrollment increased 27% from 1998 to 2005
- Graduation rates for bachelor's students increased from 37% in 1998 to 44% in 2004
- Adult education enrollment increased 144% in five years
- Extramural research and development funding increased from \$166 million to \$264 million between 1999 and 2003
- Degrees awarded at public institutions increased 24% from 1998 to 2005

# Two Challenges

- Only 15% of Kentucky 9<sup>th</sup> graders make it through college and earn a two- or four-year degree on time
- 48% of recent high school graduates entering certificate or degree programs at public colleges and universities were under prepared for college-level study in at least one subject
  - English 25%
  - Reading 32%
  - Math 35%

# Education Levels in Taylor County

## **Preparation levels exceed the state average**

- Average ACT score of recent high school graduates is 21.9, higher than the 20.9 statewide score
- Only 30% of recent high school graduates are underprepared for college in one or more academic areas compared with 48% of students statewide

## **But the education attainment level of adults is lower than the state average**

- 68% of Taylor County's population eighteen and over have at least a high school diploma or equivalent compared with 74% statewide
- 21.6% have an Associate's degree or some college (25.8% statewide)
- 12.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher (17% at the state level)



## Lessons from Taylor County

- Power of unified, entrepreneurial approach
  - Education
  - Government
  - Business
- Multi-strategy approach
  - Cohesive economic development framework
  - Improved access to the community (highway renovation)
  - Skilled workforce training and access to technology

# Unique Educational Partnerships



- The University Commitment to Adult Citizens
  - No-cost training for displaced factory workers
  - Adult College Choice for Evening Learners (ACCEL) Program
  - Expanded online programs
- Technology Training Center
  - Technology training programs and certifications
  - Language training
  - Business partnerships/ workforce training
- *Go, Earn, Do* – *GED* implemented in May 2005
  - Founding partners are Amazon.com, Team Taylor County, Kentucky Adult Education and the KY Chamber of Commerce
  - 661 GEDs awarded through this program

# Our Challenge Moving Forward

1. Staying focused on the public agenda
  - Effective stewardship, clear priorities, and strong accountability systems in postsecondary education
2. Strong partnerships between education, legislative, community, civic, and economic development partners
3. Sustained, adequate resources



<http://cpe.ky.gov>